

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/029 W

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R 280950Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TOSECSTATE WASHDC 7375

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10993

DEPT PASS TO AES?EP/PA:DHEW/OHS-NH: AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP IN

SUBJECT: MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE PASSES COMPULSORY
STERILIZATIONBILL

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS FROM
BOMBAY JUL 27 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

BOMBAY 197

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, IN

SUBJ: MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE PASSES COMPULSORY
STERILIZATION BILL

REF : (A) BOMBAY 0898 (B)BOMBAY 1187 (C) BTMBAY A-22
(D) BOMBAY --36

19 THEMAHARASHTRAILYN(RESTRICTION ON SIZE)BILL (AS
REPORTED BYTHE JOINT SELECT OMMITTEE OFBOTH THE HOUSES -
REF. D) WAS PASSED BY MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON
JULY 26. EARLIER IT WAS DISCUSSED FOR TWO DAYS BY THE
MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND PASSED ON JULY 21, 1976.

2. THE ONLY ACTIVE OPPONENT TO THE BILL WAS G.N. BANATWALA
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(MUSLIM LEAGUE) WHO FIRST UNSUCCESSFULLYMOVED TO REFER

THE BILL BACK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THEN INTRODUCED MOST OF THE 55 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, WHICH WERE ALL REJECTED. BANATWALA CAST THE ONLY NEGATIVE VOTE ALTHOUGH F.M. PINTO (89, & 43) DECLARED "I AM A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR TO THIS BILL. I COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION ON THE BILL BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND MY CONTROL." (PINTO IS A CATHOLIC).

3. DURING THE DEBATE ON THE BILL GOM HEALTH MINISTER PATIL APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL, AND THE OPPOSITION IN PARTICULAR, TO EXTEND THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMPULSORY STERILIZATION MEASURE. HE STATED THAT 2,396 HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS AND OVER 4,500 DOCTORS WERE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION. PATIL ALSO SAID THAT A GOM'S THREE-MONTH TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSE FOR DOCTORS WOULD ADD ANOTHER 400 MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

4. PATIL GAVE THE MAHARASHTRA GOAL AS 2.2 MILLION STERILIZATIONS OF THE ELIGIBLE COUPLES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS AND CLAIMED THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH MACHINERY IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT ONE MILLION STERILIZATIONS A YEAR (WHICH INCIDENTALLY IS THE TARGET FOR IFY 1976-77). ACCORDING TO PATIL, OF THE 4,500 DOCTORS INVOLVED IN FAMILY PLANNING WORK 250 DAYS IN A YEAR, EACH DOCTOR NEED PERFORM AN AVERAGE OF ONLY ONE OPERATION DAILY TO REACH THE TARGET.

5. PATIL TERMED "FALLACIOUS" THE OPPOSITION CONTENTION THAT THE POPULATION RISE IN THE STATE NEED NOT BE A SOURCE OF ANXIETY SINCE THE INCOME WAS GROWING CORRESPONDINGLY. PATIL STATED THAT FOR THE DECADE (1960/61 -1970/71), POPULATION ROSE UP 2.9 PERCENT AGAINST A MEAGRE 0.38 PERCENT RISE IN INCOME GENERATION.

6. PATIL ALSO WARNED THE HOUSE THAT NOBODY SHOULD OPPOSE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION UNDER THE DISGUISE OF RELIGION. REFERRING TO THE OPPOSITION TO THE COMPULSION BY ACPI MEMBER, P9B.KADU, PATIL SAID THAT EVEN IN RUSSIA AND CHINA IN WHOSE THINKING THE MEMBER BELIEVED, HAD

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INTRODUCED COMPULSION IN EVERYTHING THE TWO COUNTRIES DID.

7. THE GOM NOW MUST SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE BILL TO COME INTO FORCE. TWO WELL-PLACED GOM SOURCES TOLD THE CONGEN THAT NOW THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS COMPLETE, THEY EXPECT IMPLEMENTATION TO TAKE EFFECT AUGUST 15, 1976 SIGNED COURTNEY

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CALCUTTA MADR
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